

THE MACON BEACON.

MACON, MISSISSIPPI, SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1887.

NUMBER 24.

BISMARCK BALKED.

Schnaebel's Arrest Premeditated and Independent of the Invitation.

But the latter had the effect of making the former had faith in the Chancellor's release.

PARIS, April 29.—Premier Goblet received a dispatch from M. Herbet, stating that Prince Bismarck had ordered the release of M. Schnaebel. The Foreign Office has notified the press of this, and M. Schnaebel has just been released by order of the Emperor.

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DEFIANT TRAMPS.

Charged Upon by East St. Louis Police, They Were Taken to the Officers—One Tramp Probably Died.

ST. LOUIS, May 1.—For some time past the City of East St. Louis has been infested with a lot of tramps and idle, worthless loafers, who spent most of their time peddling small articles, which the police were unable to catch.

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INTER-STATE LAW.

Judge Cooley Defines the Scope of the Commission's Work.

Large Number of Petitions Heard at New Orleans—Com. Pacific Granted Suspension of Section 4.

NEW ORLEANS, May 2.—The Inter-State Commission met here today. Judge Cooley in opening the proceedings said: "It may be well to say at the outset that the scope of our limited, and that we do not intend to go beyond it. Our investigation is under the act, but they are not for any purpose of questioning the propriety, justice or expediency of that legislation. On the other hand, all that has been settled by the act is that we have the right to inquire into the question whether, in pursuance of that legislation, we shall, in certain specified cases, which have been brought to our attention, make exceptional orders, which shall give relief in these cases from the ordinary operation of the law. That is all we have power to do, and all we have authority to do." The Commission then heard a large number of petitions for, and remonstrances against the enforcement of Section 4 of the law. The citizens of Shreveport, La., presented a petition, saying that if the fourth section were enforced against the Texas and Pacific railroad the business of the city would be destroyed. W. W. Finley, General Freight Agent of the Texas and Pacific, corroborated this statement of the petitioners, saying that the city depends almost entirely on distant cities for its supply, also that competition between the steamboat lines of the Red river and the railroad to reduce rates. Jas. Cradock, merchant of Shreveport, said: "Previous to the passage of the Inter-State Commerce bill, Shreveport was getting a large number of goods from Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, and other points in the West, and since its passage rates have advanced one hundred per cent. Governor L. A. Sholden of the Texas Pacific road, stated that some time ago he had written a request for the suspension of Section 4, and had received a decision signed by Commissioner Walker, saying that it would be taken up here."

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STEAMER BURNED.

An Exciting and Thrilling Experience of a Crew Escaping from a Horrible Death.

CHICAGO, May 3.—A special from St. Louis, Mo., says: The steamer P. P. Heath, loaded with hay, caught fire forward yesterday afternoon, when off this port and about five miles out in the lake. The crew began to escape to the shore, but the boat could not be headed in as the furious westerly gale that was raging would have caused the fire to spread throughout the steamer. The Heath was finally turned toward Centerville Point, and when near that place the crew endeavored to make a landing at the pier, but the swift current carried the burning steamer north of the landing. She struck the beach about thirty yards from shore. The mate and second engineer entered the small boat, but it swamped, and before the occupants could make out the water, the boat was on fire. The mate and second engineer were rescued by a volunteer crew, and went out to rescue the remainder of the crew. After getting alongside, a line was connected with the steamer, but was burned away. The current carried the burning party away. Those on shore, seeing the fate of the second boat, sent out a third one, which rescued the captain and steward. The wheelman, George Olson, and First Engineer Rodgers refused to enter for fear of swamping. After the sail-boat reached the pier, the last effort to reach the large was made, but before the boat made one-half the distance the flames compelled the men on the steamer to jump overboard. Engineer Rogers was the first to make the leap, and after a hard struggle against the current and undertow he reached the beach exhausted. George Olson was evidently stunned as he appeared to be unable to make any headway toward the shore. Ernest Tesmer, a young farmer, seeing the peril of the wheelman, plunged into the waves, and soon reached the drowning man. He succeeded in carrying his comrade about fifty feet, when he was compelled to let go and swim for his life. The mate and second engineer attached a line to their bodies and reached Olson, and with great difficulty brought him ashore. He was dead. The steamer is a total loss. She was valued at \$6,000 and the cargo at \$800.

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ERICSSON'S DESTROYER.

Description of the Iron-Clad and Its Powerful Submarine Gun.

Outwardly the Destroyer is simply an armored iron-clad vessel with a wedge-shaped bow and stern. It is briefly described by the inventor as follows: The Destroyer is an iron vessel 130 feet long, 17 feet wide, 11 feet deep, protected by a wrought iron breast work of great strength applied near the bow. The submarine gun, a formidable piece of ordnance of 16-inch caliber and 30 feet length, is placed on the bottom of the vessel, the muzzle projecting through the opening in the stern. The projectile expelled by the submarine gun is 25 feet long, its weight being 1,500 pounds, including an explosive charge of 300 pounds of gun-cotton. The Destroyer attacks bows on, and discharges the projectile at a distance of 300 feet from the ship attacked. The explosion of 300 pounds of gun-cotton against the lower part of a ship's hull will shatter it so completely that the expedient of employing water-tight compartments will be of no avail. It may be added, for the clearer comprehension of those not experts, that the water is prevented from rushing through the gun into the bilge by an out-board valve, opened and closed automatically. The body of the torpedo is of wood, shaped like a huge cigar. The point or dynamite end is made of copper. The initial velocity with which the torpedo leaves the gun is at the rate of 250 miles an hour, or 250 feet a second. With a minimum charge of powder in the gun the projectile traversed the first 300 feet in three seconds. In the experiments made by a mixed board two years ago, common card nettings were used to determine whether there was really any trajectory in the travel of the torpedo. At firing distances of 250 feet the course of the torpedo through the water was in a perfectly straight line. The tide currents had no effect on the course of the torpedo, nor could its course be detected as it traveled through the water. The torpedo is exploded by concussion, and is calculated to strike a vessel at any point below the water-line. The machinery of the vessel occupies a space less than eight feet square, and is entirely below the water-line and below the intermediate deck, so that it is impossible for the boat to become disabled from the shots of the enemy. An important feature in the construction of the vessel is an intermediate, curved deck, extending from stem to stern, and composed of plate iron strongly ribbed and perfectly watertight. This intermediate deck sustains a heavy, solid armor plate, placed transversely to the line of the keel thirty-two feet from the bow, inclined to an angle of forty-five degrees, and supported on the other side by a wood backing four and a half feet deep at the base. The steering-wheel is behind this wood backing. A deck cabin seventy feet long above this intermediate deck affords quarters for the officers and crews. The helmsman occupies a pit in the forward end, from which he not only steers the vessel but discharges the gun by an electric battery upon signal. He watches the vessel's course and the position of the enemy through a small port-hole of heavy plate glass, and is protected by wrought-iron invulnerable armor plate sixteen inches in thickness.—*Toledo Blade.*

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New Way to Get a Library.

NEW YORK, April 29.—The sixtieth anniversary of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was celebrated in this city by a grand performance at the Metropolitan opera-house. The interesting feature of the performance was the mode of obtaining money. No money was taken, but any person presenting to the Library Committee a book or complete work of any well-known author was given tickets of admission. The Odd Fellows are about to establish a library. Thirty thousand books were thus collected.

Relieved of His Tin Whistle.

OWENSBORO, Ky., April 29.—The operation performed on Hamdon Fugate last Monday for the extraction of a tin whistle from his lungs was to-day successful. The incision in the boy's wind pipe, had been kept disinfected during the week, and in a few days the tin whistle was ejected through the orifice. The boy will now recover.

Keeping Their Husbands at Home.

CARLEISLE, Pa., April 29.—The